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JAN 23 2004

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Jerry E. Pierce, et al.

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPTIMIZING MARKET ACCESSIBILITY  
VIA AN ELECTRONIC NETWORK

App. No.: 09/497,773

Filed: 02/03/2000

Examiner: Michael A. Cuff

Group Art Unit: 3627

Atty. Dkt. No. 22789 (1007-0001)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## AMENDMENT/RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed December 30, 2003, this Amendment, is submitted within the 3-month shortened statutory period. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents on Jan. 23, 2004.

Grace Adams

Typed or Printed Name

Grace Adams

Signature